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and May 26, 1898). Two other stations where this detention was enforced, were Tortugas Quarantine Station and Egmont Key Detention Camp; and reports from these stations follow:

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

#### REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

##### *El Paso.*

EL PASO, TEX., May 23, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a gentleman, his wife, and 2 children arrived yesterday by the Mexican Central from Torreon, Mexico, a town where smallpox is epidemic. One of the children had confluent smallpox, and according to the father's own statement, the other child lately had varioloid. Though no scales were visible on the face or body of the child, I thought it precautionary to detain the family for twenty-four hours to enable me to disinfect all their baggage.

Very respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,

*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Laredo.*—Act. Asst. Surg. H. J. Hamilton, Laredo, Tex., reports, under date of May 29, that a delegate of the superior council of health of Mexico, after investigation, found 1 death from yellow fever on May 11. Diagnosis confirmed by autopsy. Disinfection of house and clothing done at once. Bedding burned.

*Cerebro-spinal meningitis*—*Abstract of replies received to circular requesting information.*

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

VIRGINIA—*Alexandria.*—During the week ended May 27, 1 death from cerebro-spinal meningitis was reported.

WASHINGTON—*Tacoma.*—Since October 1, 1898, 7 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis have been reported.

##### *Detention of troops at Tortugas Quarantine Station.*

TORTUGAS QUARANTINE, FLA., May 22, 1899.

SIR: In compliance with Bureau letter (P. M. C.), of May 12, 1899, directing a report of operations, under orders received, in connection with troops returning from Cuba, I have the honor to make the following report:

Acting under telegraphic orders to proceed to Tortugas and report to Assistant Surgeon Anderson, I arrived at this station on March 23. On the morning of March 26 the transports *Florida* and *Kilpatrick*, having on board the First Regiment of Texas Volunteer Infantry, arrived. The *Florida*, carrying the baggage, equipment, and 4 companies of the regiment, was brought to the wharf, while the *Kilpatrick*, too large to enter either channel, anchored in the outer harbor.

The troops on the *Florida* were at once disembarked, and as each company landed its blanket rolls and the contents of knapsacks were inspected. All fabrics were tied up in the blankets, the bundles marked by stencil, and placed in the steam chamber. The ponchos were placed in piles by companies, and dipped in a solution of bichloride of mercury 1-1000 by quarantine employees. The companies were marched into the fort and quartered in the casemates.

The heavy baggage was hoisted onto the dock and there opened by details from the companies. The clothing and fabrics were made into bundles under the careful supervision of a medical officer, marked, and, after steaming, repacked.

The tents, cots, etc., remaining in the hold were arranged to permit of penetration, the baggage replaced, and all subjected to fumigation by sulphur dioxide.

The uniforms of the officers were placed in staterooms, and disinfected by formaldehyd gas. Three days were required to complete work on the *Florida*.

The majority of the troops were on board the *Kilpatrick*, but as they had no baggage with them on the boat, except their blanket rolls and knapsacks, their disinfection was easily accomplished. With the energetic aid of Acting Assistant Surgeon McConnell, the fabrics contained in the blanket rolls and knapsacks were made into bundles, marked, and sent to the disinfecting wharf by the tugboat *Powhatan*. An immediate inspection of the vessel was made, and it was found that a number of articles, such as towels, underclothes, etc., had been left out of the knapsacks, so these were collected and placed in a solution of bichloride. The ponchos were dipped in bichloride solution on board. The uniforms of the officers were treated as on the *Florida*.

Several trunks were found in the rooms of the officers, and these were treated by unpacking, sprinkling formalin between the successive layers of clothes as they were replaced, and closing the lids tightly.

Both vessels were discharged on March 30. During the last three days of this work Assistant Surgeon Anderson was physically unfit for duty, but, in spite of illness, carried on the work with unflagging energy, and maintained a strict personal supervision over every detail.

On March 31 the transport *Vigilancia* arrived, with 4 companies of the Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry on board. The vessel had left Havana without a bill of health. As this transport was also too large to be brought to the dock, it was necessary for the medical officer to remain on board, while Senior Hospital Steward Kolb conducted the steam disinfection at the wharf.

The blanket rolls, knapsacks, ponchos, and the uniforms of the officers were treated as outlined for the transport *Kilpatrick*.

The heavy baggage was opened in the hold by the troops, under careful observation, and the clothing made into bundles and sent to shore. Particular attention was paid to the hospital equipment used in Cuba, as a number of dirty mattresses and some soiled linen had been packed away. After the baggage had been unpacked, the hold containing the boxes was fumigated with sulphur dioxide.

On April 2 the disinfected clothing was returned to the ship, and after an inspection of the troops the vessel was discharged.

Some inconvenience was experienced in treating these vessels, as the supply of formalin shipped to this station had been delayed en route, and there was none on hand for use in the autoclaves. The generation of the gas from methyl alcohol proved unsatisfactory, as the lamps were about worn out and unreliable. Fortunately, Acting Assistant Surgeon

McConnell had a sufficient supply on hand for the disinfection of the trunks on board his vessel.

The transport *Logan*, bringing the Third Nebraska Volunteer Infantry to this place for disinfection and detention, arrived on the morning of April 8. She was too large to reach the wharf, so was anchored in the outer harbor. A heavy norther was blowing and the sea was so rough that neither troops nor baggage could be landed. After waiting two days for the weather to moderate the vessel left for Savannah without unloading.

I wish to acknowledge the hearty cooperation and valuable suggestions given by Assistant Surgeon Lumsden in arranging plans for handling these troops.

Respectfully, yours,

W. R. McADAM,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Detention of troops at Egmont Key Detention Camp.*

UNITED STATES DETENTION CAMP,  
*Egmont Key, Fla., May 26, 1899.*

SIR: In compliance with Bureau letter (P. M. C.) of May 12, 1899, directing me to submit a report of operations at this camp in connection with the returning troops from Cuba, I have to respectfully submit the following report:

The camp was put in commission on April 2, and preparations begun for the reception of the troops.

The personnel of the camp at this time consisted of Surg. P. M. Carrington (in command), Asst. Surg. G. M. Corput, Senior Hosp. Steward F. H. Peck, Junior Hosp. Steward C. G. Carlton, and 8 hospital attendants.

On April 6, however, the corps was greatly reinforced by the arrival of P. A. Surg. G. M. Magruder.

The possibilities of the camp were very much limited by lack of wharfage, and by the small disinfecting plant of the station.

Immediately after the receipt of orders to prepare the camp for the reception of about 800 soldiers, who were to arrive on steamships *Yarmouth* and *Whitney*, of the Plant Line, the U. S. S. *Charles Foster* was put in commission, and has since that time been used as dispatch and supply boat.

On April 3 Steward Peck was sent ashore to employ additional temporary attendants, and as soon as he returned with them they were put to work preparing for troops. An additional air-tight chamber was built, and racks put inside of it preparatory to using it for disinfecting with formalin by means of an autoclave. A small No. 1 autoclave was borrowed from Acting Assistant Surgeon Altree, at Port Tampa, and a No. 2 autoclave from Dr. Echemandia, the quarantine officer at Mullet Key.

These arrangements did not, however, remove the difficulty caused by lack of wharfage.

At this time the idea of obtaining control of the wharf and buoy shed adjoining, belonging to the Light-House Department, suggested itself, and the Bureau was requested by wire to secure this wharf from the Light-House Board if possible.

As soon as Bureau telegram, informing us that this authority had been granted, was received, the buoy shed was cleaned out and 5 air-tight chambers built, with a capacity of 1,000 cubic feet each, and